

### **In the Claims**

Please cancel claims 1-12 without prejudice; and add claims 13-30 as follows:

#### **Claims 1-12 (Cancelled)**

13. (New) A method of manufacturing a fiber optic connector, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) providing a clamping fixture having a normally-closed nest;
- b) opening the nest to receive a ferrule of the fiber optic connector;
- c) positioning the ferrule within the nest when the nest is opened; and
- d) closing the nest to clamp the ferrule within the nest.

14. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein the step of opening the nest includes moving a moveable portion of the nest from a normally-closed position to an open position.

15. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein the moveable portion is defined by first and second slots formed in a plate of the clamping fixture, the step of opening the nest including moving the moveable portion toward one of the first and second slots.

16. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein the step of closing the nest includes releasing the moveable portion of the nest so that the nest returns to the normally-closed position.

17. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein the step of opening the nest includes applying a displacement force to a portion of the nest such that the nest opens to receive the ferrule.

18. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the step of closing the nest includes removing the displacement force so that the nest returns to the normally-closed position.

19. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein at least a portion of the nest is defined by slots, the step of opening the nest including widening at least one of the slots.

20. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein the slots define a moveable portion of the nest.
21. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein the clamping fixture includes a plurality of nests.
22. (New) The method of claim 13, further including polishing the ferrule when clamped within the nest.
23. (New) A method of manufacturing a fiber optic connector, the method comprising the steps of:
- a) providing a clamping device having a nest sized to hold a ferrule, the nest including a cantilever defined by first and second slots formed in a plate of the clamping device; and
  - b) flexing the cantilever between a flexed position where the nest is sized to receive the ferrule, and a rest position where the nest is sized to clamp the ferrule.
24. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the clamping device includes a plurality of nests.
25. (New) A method of manufacturing a fiber optic connector, the method comprising the steps of:
- a) providing a clamping device having a nest;
  - b) biasing a portion of the nest from a closed position to an open position to receive a ferrule of the fiber optic connector;
  - c) positioning the ferrule within the nest when the nest is opened; and
  - d) releasing the portion of the nest so that the ferrule is clamped within the nest.
26. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the portion of the nest is defined by first and second slots formed in a plate of the clamping device, the step of biasing the portion including moving the portion toward one of the first and second slots.
27. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the step of biasing the portion of the nest includes applying a displacement force to the portion.

28. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the step of releasing the nest includes removing the displacement force.
29. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the clamping device includes a plurality of nests.
30. (New) The method of claim 25, further including polishing the ferrule when clamped within the nest.